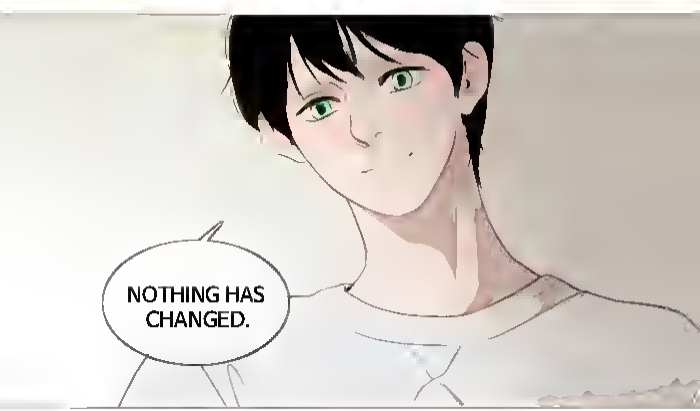
YOU SEEM KIND OF WEIRD TODAY. IT'S LIKE SOMETHING HAS CHANGED IN YOU.

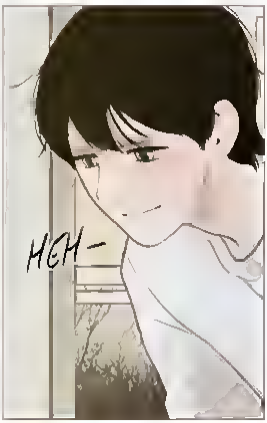


I JUST...

HAD A DREAM
A MINUTE AGO,
AND I FEEL REALLY
CERTAIN NOW.

I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE...
EVEN AFTER I FINISH TELLING YOU MY STORY.
I WANT TO PERSUADE ROY TO STAY HERE WITH YOU, JANE.

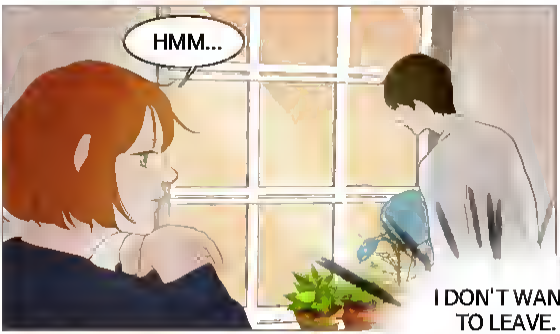
UH... WHAT?


HEH-

BZZT
???

JANE, I JUST FELT A TWINGE IN HERE!
AH. OKAY.
IGNORE..
WHEW.
I REALLY NEED TO FIND A JOB.

Winter Woods



I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE. I WANT TO PERSUADE ROY TO STAY HERE WITH YOU, JANE.

HUH?!
IT'S LARRY!

JANE!!
HUH?

CAN I GO OUT AND SEE LARRY?
AHH SURE.
BUT DON'T YOU THINK ROY HAS BEEN A BIT TOO QUIET FOR THE PAST WHILE?
ISN'T IT TIME TO WIND UP HIS SPRING?
NOD
NOD

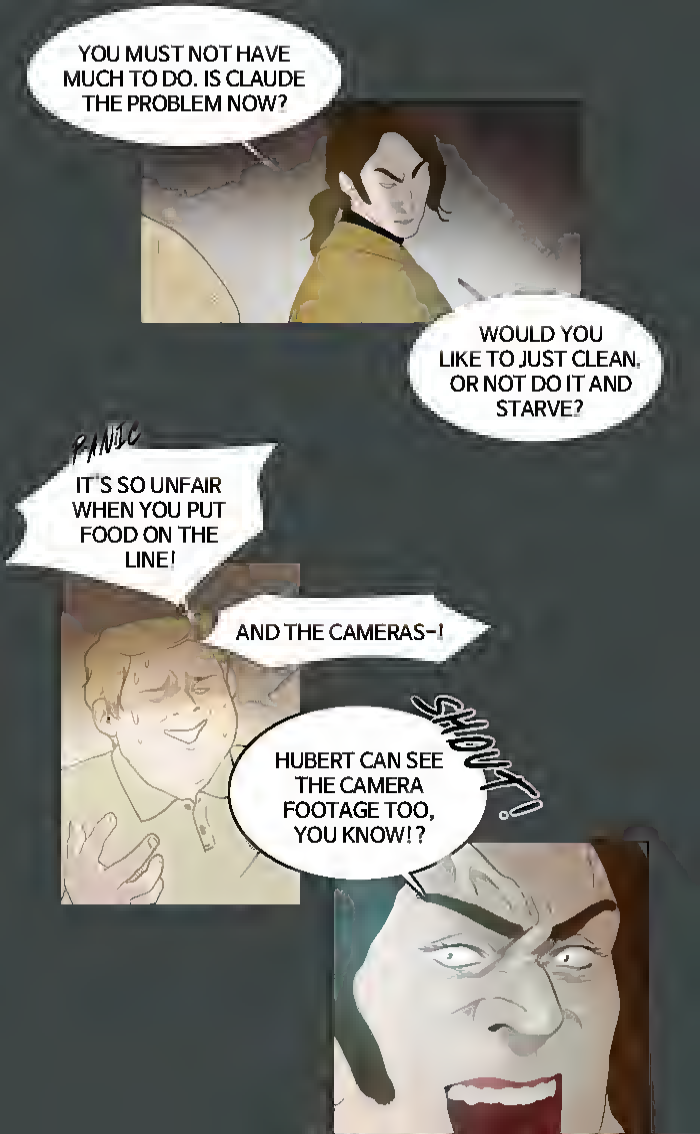
HM.
IT'S OKAY.
I'LL DO IT, JANE.
...ALRIGHT.
WELL, HAVE FUN
WITH LARRY.
HE'LL PROBABLY
WIND ROY UP
WHEN HE NEEDS TO,
RIGHT?
IT'S COLD OUTSIDE,
SO PUT ON SOME
WARM CLOTHES.
OKAY!

NOD...
NOD.

SSK—
SSK—

GRUMPY...
UGH-!
HIM AND HIS STUPID
CLEANING!!

WHILE I'M AT THE LAB,
WHY DON'T YOU GO OUTSIDE
AND CLEAN THE SQUARE?
IT'LL BE GOOD EXERCISE.
WHAT??
I'M BUSY WATCHING
THE SECURITY CAMERAS.
THERE ARE
A LOT OF THINGS
TO KEEP AN EYE ON.
LIKE CLAUDE,
THAT GUY HASN'T BEEN GOING
OUT LATELY FOR SOME REASON.
ISN'T THAT SUSPICIOUS?


YOU MUST NOT HAVE MUCH TO DO. IS CLAUDE THE PROBLEM NOW?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JUST CLEAN, OR NOT DO IT AND STARVE?
PANIC
IT'S SO UNFAIR WHEN YOU PUT FOOD ON THE LINE!
AND THE CAMERAS-!
SHOUT
HUBERT CAN SEE THE CAMERA FOOTAGE TOO, YOU KNOW!?

I'LL TEXT HIM AND
TELL HIM TO KEEP AN EYE ON
WINTER WHILE YOU'RE CLEANING,
SO YOU'D BETTER DO
A GOOD JOB!
GOT IT?!
HONEY?!!

HMPH...
URGH...
WE REALLY SHOULDN'T LET CLAUDE OUT OF OUR SIGHT...

LARRY!!

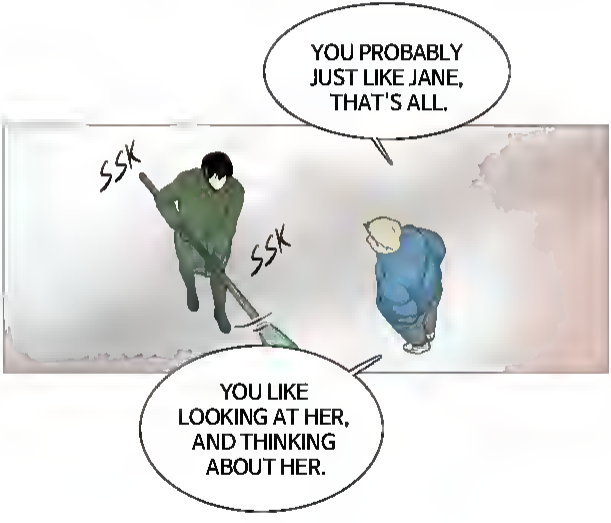
WINTER HAS A MUCH WIDER RANGE OF EXPRESSIONS LATELY.

HE'S DEFINITELY CHANGED A LOT COMPARED TO THE BEGINNING.

I HAVE A QUESTION, LARRY.

I CAN'T JUST TELL YOU FOR FREE~
??
SSK~
I'LL ANSWER YOU IF YOU HELP ME CLEAR AWAY THE SNOW!
OKAY!

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW?
PUT ON SOME GLOVES~
BEFORE, I FELT A TWINGE IN MY CHEST WHILE I WAS LOOKING AT JANE'S FACE.
WHY DID IT DO THAT?


YOU PROBABLY JUST LIKE JANE, THAT'S ALL.
SSK
SSK
YOU LIKE LOOKING AT HER, AND THINKING ABOUT HER.

IS THAT WHY I FELT THAT TWINGE? BECAUSE I LIKE HER...?
OF COURSE~ THAT MEANS YOU LIKE HER.
I SEE...
BZZT!!

BZZT
BZZT!

L-LARRY,
EVERY TIME I FEEL A TWINGE,
IT DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN
THAT I LIKE THE PERSON
I'M WITH, DOES IT?
OF COURSE
IT DOES!
WHY WOULD YOU FEEL
A TWINGE IF YOU'RE NOT EVEN
INTERESTED IN SOMEONE?

I DON'T THINK SO.
SHIVER
I DON'T LIKE YOU, LARRY. YOU'RE WRONG.
WHAT??

HE'S SO BOLD!
IF HE GETS A BIT BIGGER HERE AND THERE, HE COULD SERIOUSLY BE A WOMANIZER!!

AND THE WAY HE ACTS IS SO CUTE.
I WISH I HAD A LITTLE BROTHER LIKE HIM. I WOULD BE SO GOOD TO HIM.
AH... RIGHT...

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU SEE WINTER AS A DECENT PERSON, MR. SMITH.

AT FIRST,
I THOUGHT HE WAS
JUST LIKE A DOLL,
BUT THE MORE I SEE HIM,
THE MORE FUN AND
KIND...
.....
AH, I MEAN.
I'VE JUST BEEN
WATCHING HIM A LOT
FOR THE EXPERIMENT.
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY...
OTHER INTENTIONS.
HAHA

MR. SMITH,
WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN TO WINTER AFTER THIS EXPERIMENT IS FINISHED?

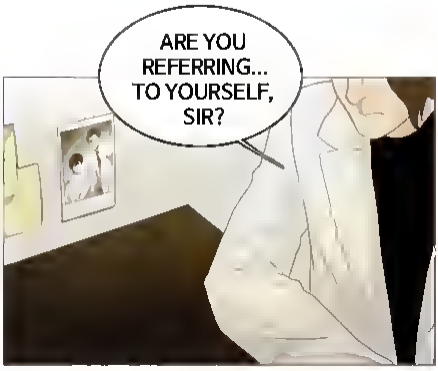
WELL,
HE'LL COME BACK TO THE LAB, RIGHT?

AND THEN?
WHAT ABOUT AFTER HE COMES BACK HERE?

...HE'LL PROBABLY GO BACK TO LIVING LIKE BEFORE.

DO YOU KNOW
WHAT KIND OF EXPERIMENTS
WINTER HAD TO GO
THROUGH BEFORE
HE WAS SENT TO JANE?

IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT, THEN IT'S BETTER TO NOT GET ATTACHED IN THE FIRST PLACE.
SILLY EMOTIONS WON'T HELP YOU AT ALL.


ARE YOU REFERRING... TO YOURSELF, SIR?

...YES.
AND I REGRET IT.

BEFORE,
I FELT A TWINGE
IN MY CHEST
WHILE I WAS LOOKING
AT JANE'S FACE.

HMM-
THE MIC WORKS A LOT BETTER THAN I THOUGHT. I TOLD LARRY TO PUT IT ON JUST IN CASE...

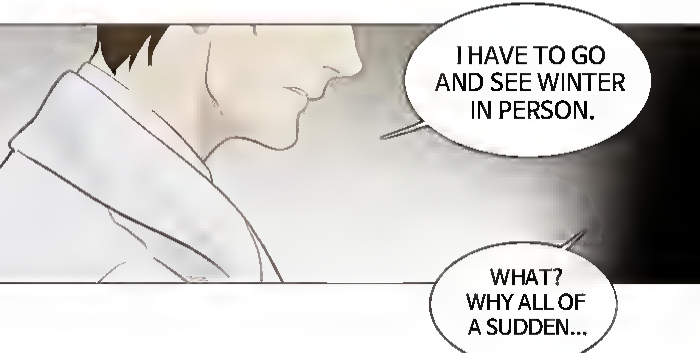
SOMETHING...

SEEMS STRANGE.

BUT EL-01 HAS BEEN ALIVE FOR-
THAT 'THING' ISN T ALIVE.

HOWEVER.
IF IT WERE ALIVE, IT'D BE A VERY DIFFERENT STORY.
IF HE'S ALIVE...

THEN HE'LL DIE.
TIME WILL FLOW VERY QUICKLY FOR HIM SINCE IT WAS SUSPENDED BEFORE


I HAVE TO GO AND SEE WINTER IN PERSON.
WHAT? WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN...

AS QUICKLY
AS POSSIBLE
CAN I?

Winter Woods

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